

# *A Home for Everyone* Coordinating Board

Shared Governance for our United  
Plan to End Homelessness



Portland  
Housing  
Bureau



# Why Shared Governance?

- ❑ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires it
- ❑ Our community asked for it
  - Transparent decision making
  - More inclusive
  - Shared responsibility and accountability
  - More efficient and effective

## **A Home for Everyone: A United Community Plan to End Homelessness for Portland/Multnomah County**

Portland prides itself in being a wonderful place to call home. We possess the assets of a thriving urban center while maintaining the feeling of a close community. Here, "offering a helping hand" is not just a cliché, it's how we interact with one another and our community.

Despite our city's strengths, every resident does not experience the same quality of life. Increased unemployment and a widening gap between the wealthy and poor show that we do not share equally in the economic benefits and opportunities our city has to offer.

Homelessness is a crisis. We need to urgently respond because lives are at stake as a result of our actions. The facts are:

- 1,700 people sleep on our sidewalks each night.
- Nearly half (46%) of those experiencing homelessness are people of color, although they comprise only 29% percent of Multnomah County's population.
- More than 3,000 school children in Multnomah County were homeless last year.
- Two out of three of our lowest-income neighbors pay more than half of their income on rent, placing them at risk of losing their homes.

### **Why a plan will make a difference**

- Homelessness can be solved. Prior to the 1980's, it didn't exist in the numbers we see today. And, it can be prevented; we know what works well in our community.
- Housing is the foundation of a person's success in achieving good health, education and employment/income; it allows people to participate and contribute in their communities.
- There is a significant shortage of affordable housing in our community. Addressing this shortage is key to ending homelessness in our community. This plan will focus our efforts to expand affordable housing access for our lowest-income residents and prevent new people from becoming homeless.
- Ending homelessness will reduce disparities in housing access for people of color. There are significant racial inequities among those who experience homelessness. Our plan will offer effective solutions to decrease and eliminate these disparities.
- Homelessness is expensive for residents and businesses. It increases costs for health and mental health care, jails, police and schools. We save money and produce better outcomes when people have a place to call home. Our whole community advances when homelessness is ended.

### **Responding to the crisis of homelessness**

Over the past eight years, our community has come together in unprecedented ways to respond to the crisis of homelessness. The *Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness (Ten Year Plan)* was launched in December 2004, which established ambitious goals, improved service delivery and targeted investments and partnerships across public, private and nonprofit sectors. Our successes are highlighted in Attachment A, "Ten Year Plan Summary: 2005-2011 (Years 1 to 7)".

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# What does it do?

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- Better shared knowledge:
  - Use data to assess needs and gaps in homeless systems
  - Develop common agenda/priorities across jurisdictions
- Better evaluation:
  - Are we investing in effective services?
  - Do our equity strategies eliminate disparities?
- Better coordination:
  - Specific concerns of local stakeholders are heard
  - Transparent allocation of federal funds (Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG))
  - Improve leverage for resource development

# What does it look like?

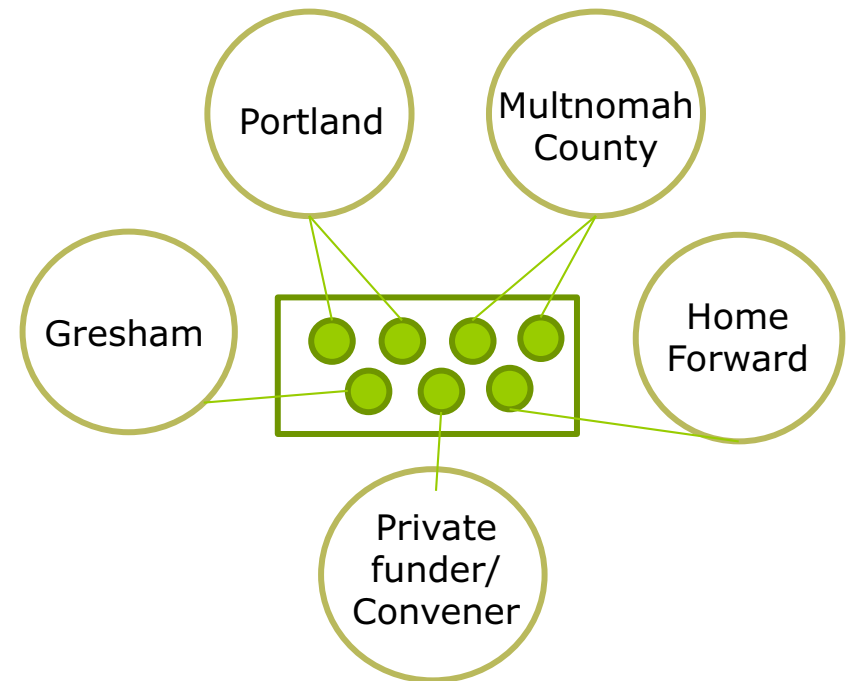
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- Chartered by:
  - Portland and Gresham City Councils
  - Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
  - Home Forward Board of Directors
- Broadly representative Coordinating Board
- Led by Executive Committee

# Executive Committee

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- Appoints rest of Coordinating Board
- Charters committees and workgroups
- Sets work plans and goals
- Directs shared staffing



# Coordinating Board

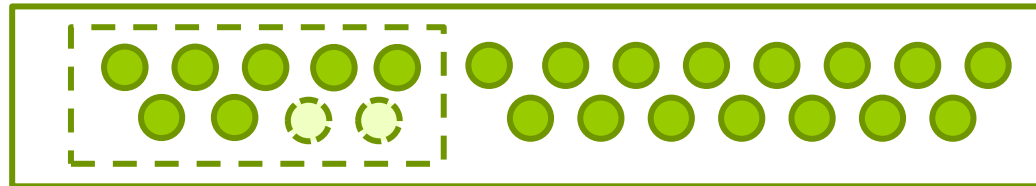
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- ❑ Includes Exec Committee
- ❑ Broadly representative:
  - Homeless/formerly-homeless and advocates
  - Providers (homeless services, domestic violence, culturally-specific)
  - Faith-based organizations
  - Businesses and workforce development
  - School districts and universities
  - Health care and behavioral health providers
  - Affordable housing developers
  - Law enforcement and criminal justice
  - Organizations that serve veterans
  - Oregon Department of Human Services self-sufficiency and foster care
- ❑ At least 3 members nominated by community

# Coordinating Board

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A Home for Everyone Coordinating Board



- ❑ Assesses need, recommends priority gaps
- ❑ Review and recommend funding and strategies
- ❑ Make policy and funding decision for federal funds (Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant)
- ❑ Develop annual action plan and measure success

# Next steps

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- ❑ Charter to jurisdictions in early April
- ❑ Accompanying intergovernmental agreement by early May
- ❑ Exec Committee convenes in late May
- ❑ Exec Committee appoints Coordinating Board (including community nominees)
- ❑ Coordinating Board convened in June